

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Executive Registry

71-1273

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15 MAR 1971

F. D. C. I.

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable John N. Mitchell  
The Attorney General

SUBJECT : Explosive Residue Detection Techniques

OGC Has Reviewed Nazi/Japanese War Crimes Task Force review completed

1. On 19 June 1970, I declassified and released to you for technology transfer the highly-effective Trace Metal Detection Technique developed by this Agency. Subsequent to this action, your executive agent, the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, has published a manual of the technique and has conducted field tests and seminars to disseminate the technique to federal and public law enforcement agencies.

2. I have reviewed other scientific detection systems developed by this Agency and believe that two additional techniques dealing with the detection of explosive residues on skin and clothing surfaces of many of those persons handling such explosives, may now be declassified and dissemination similar to that given the Trace Metal Detection Technique now seems appropriate.

3. If you agree that such dissemination is desirable at this time, Mr. Howard J. Osborn, our Director of Security, will arrange the technology transfer of the techniques to the executive agent you designate, for such dissemination by your personnel as you deem appropriate.

Richard Helms

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Richard Helms  
Director

*Original to be  
submitted to the  
Attorney General by*

[Redacted]

6 OCT 1971  
at 11:30  
BEP  
0/14 DSI

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GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

CONFIDENTIAL

**ORIGINATOR:**

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Howard J. Casern  
Director of Security

5 MAR 1971

Date

**Distribution:**

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CONFIDENTIAL

71-1273/1

5 MAR 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : General Counsel  
Deputy Director for Support  
Deputy Director for Plans  
Executive Director-Comptroller

SUBJECT : Proposed Declassification and Release  
Of Explosive Residue Detection Techniques

1. This memorandum proposes action to declassify and disseminate the Explosives Residue Detection Technique to law enforcement officials and contains a recommendation in this regard for your approval in paragraph seven.

2. Since the declassification and dissemination through the facilities of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration of the Trace Metal Detection Technique, we have received impressive feed-back of the value of that technique in enhancing scientific crime detection procedures. Several police organizations have expressed deep interest in any technique similar to the Trace Metal Detection Technique which would be of value in scientific crime detection involving cases in which explosives were handled.

3. Through the efforts of the Technical Services Division the Agency has developed two specific techniques for explosive residue detection on clothing and skin surfaces, and have disseminated the technique on a classified basis to both foreign and domestic national law enforcement organizations. In

Note: Original to be delivered to the  
Attorney General by [redacted]  
of OCI on 17 March 71 at 11:30. [redacted]

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Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP80B01086A000900200027-3

GROUP 1

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declassification

**SECRET**

addition, the technique has been demonstrated before an expanded meeting of the Security Committee of the United States Intelligence Board, again with our expression of restrictions on use because of the classified nature of the techniques.

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5. To protect the identity of this Agency as the source of the development of these techniques, there would appear to be two possible vehicles for the technology transfer of the techniques to the nation's law enforcement agencies. One is the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration of the U. S. Department of Justice, which funded dissemination of the Trace Metal Detection Technique, arranged for its field testing, publication of a manual, and contracted for and distributes the chemical solution necessary to that technique. The alternative would be the National Bomb Data Center of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. The latter is more intimately concerned with the national problem involving explosive devices, but operates under a grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. It would appear, therefore, that the Attorney General would be the appropriate channel for your release of the information, with the final determination of executive agent, the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) or the LEAA-funded National Bomb Data Center, left to his discretion.

6. There is no question that declassification and release of this technique to both federal and public law enforcement officials in this country will further cement our very close relationships with those officials who know the true Agency origin of the techniques. In addition, the release of these techniques is a very real and timely public service which will provide law enforcement officials with added capability which they sorely need in meeting the rising wave of explosives in crimes of violence throughout the nation.


- 2 -

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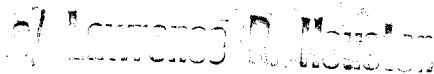
7. It is, therefore, recommended that you approve the declassification of the explosive residue detection technique and the release of the technique to the Attorney General for technology transfer to the nation's law enforcement agencies. In this connection, I have prepared for your signature a proposed memorandum to the Attorney General to provide the basis for further discussions and implementing action between operating officials of the executive agent selected by the Attorney General and this Office.

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**Howard J. Osborn**  
 Director of Security

Attachment

**CONCURRENCE:**



**Lawrence R. Houston**  
 General Counsel

**5 MAR 1971**

**Date**

ILLEGIB



**Thomas H. Karamessines**  
 Deputy Director  
 for Plans

**8 MAR 1971**

**Date**

**SECRET**

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**CONCURRENCE:**

(signed) John W. Coffey

10 MAR 1971

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**John W. Coffey**  
**Deputy Director**  
**for Support**

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**Date**

**L. K. White**

12 MAR 1971

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**L. K. White**  
**Executive Director-Comptroller**

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**Date**

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**Distribution:**

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77-1484

12 March 1971

Dear Dick,

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STAT

Just before leaving for London on Monday, at the suggestion of Mac Godley I had a long talk with one of your young officers, [ ] who has just returned [ ]. He has been involved, among other things, in reporting narcotic activities in the area and in particular the manufacture of heroin [ ]. As you may or may not know, I have in the past been involved in international narcotics control both in Geneva, Turkey, and recently as a member of the United Nations Survey of the opium growing hill tribes in North Thailand.

STAT

The purpose in writing you is to commend his knowledge of the subject and his enthusiasm to do something about it. I made a few suggestions - one of which may have been somewhat extreme - and hope as a result he may have an opportunity to put something forward.

STAT

In this connection, it seems to me that in view of the Administration's anxiety about and hope that the illicit drug traffic can be controlled, it will be more important than ever that the Agency use its talents to plug the Southeast Asia source, particularly when and if opium supplies dwindle from the Near East. It is not necessarily a problem of police action and law enforcement. It is a highly sensitive political matter vis-a-vis governments and officials of governments, who sometimes themselves are involved in the illicit traffic. Consequently, I wonder if there should be somebody designated to coordinate information and recommend action within the Agency. [ ] would appear to me to be particularly qualified with respect to Southeast Asia. I was most impressed with him.

STAT

With best regards,

*Freddie*

Frederick T. Merrill

P.S.

This needs no acknowledgment.

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<b>OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP</b>					
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	APPROVAL		DISPATCH		RECOMMENDATION
	COMMENT		FILE		RETURN
	CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION		SIGNATURE
<b>Remarks:</b> <i>to 3</i> <i>I would like to talk</i> <i>to this young man</i> <i>personally when he</i> <i>arrives here</i>					
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FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.					DATE
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FORM NO.  
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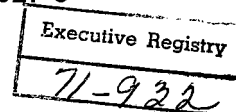
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505



19 February 1971

STATINTL



Mr. Helms passed to me your letters of November 24 and December 28, 1970, and his two letters to you of November 30 and December 16, 1970. Since the disposition of the Dulles papers is largely a legal problem and I have been responsible for making the necessary arrangements, he has asked me to correspond directly with you. Incidentally, I had heard earlier that you had an interest in certain of the papers, but at that time I was not aware of the specific problem, and through a misunderstanding or some slip up, I did not realize you were expecting to hear from me. I apologize, but in any case we were not prepared at that time to give you final answers.

When Mr. Dulles died we all knew he had a large amount of written material in his house which no one had reviewed in detail. We knew that some of it was clearly OSS or CIA material, and that other items were written to him in his official capacity involving sensitive matters and should be incorporated in the Government files. The problem was protection of this material and the suitable sorting of the personal from the official files.

With the agreement of Mrs. Dulles and the executors, all the material was brought to our headquarters, and we have spent a good deal of time having it reviewed by people with the

DCI

background and knowledge which would enable them to make intelligent decisions concerning the final disposition. We are finally making some progress and have identified a good many of the different categories. In fact, we have already returned to Mrs. Dulles and the executors some of the documents which are clearly personal in nature. We have also identified numerous categories which should clearly be retained by the Government.

In connection with your inquiry, we have found two folders consisting of your direct reporting to Mr. Dulles [redacted] during the years 1943, 1944, and 1945. Inasmuch as these are reports which Mr. Dulles, as head of the OSS Mission in [redacted]

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[redacted] requested from you, it is our conclusion that they are properly part of the OSS files and should be incorporated in those Archives. As you may know, it has been an established policy that access to those files is given only to persons with an official "need to know," and they cannot be released to anyone outside the Government for personal reasons.

There is an indication in your letter of November 24th that there was further correspondence after the [redacted] I have referred to above, and there are indeed copies of a few letters to you from Mr. Dulles which appear to be acknowledgments of correspondence from you. However, so far our search (which has been quite thorough) has not located any letters from you to Mr. Dulles for the period after 1945, and since we know of no material other than that which was delivered to us, we believe any such correspondence must have been destroyed.

STATINTL

I realize it must be extremely disappointing to you to receive an answer in this vein, and should any correspondence turn up which would appear to be personal rather than official in nature, we will notify Mrs. Dulles and the executors of your interest as we would not be in a position to make any disposition other than to Mr. Dulles' estate.

STATINTL

Sincerely,

[redacted signature box]

Lawrence R. Houston  
General Counsel

Executive Registry

71-932/

STATINTL

December 28, 1970

Dear Mr. Helms,

I have a very guilty conscience at not having responded before to your two very kind--and hopeful--notes. My only excuse is, like everyone else, the

STATINTL

I am sure that if my letters can be retrieved you will do it for me. And of course I understand that everything takes time and people get sick and go away and...and...and....So please don't worry that I might think you weren't doing everything possible. And again let me thank you--not only for trying to get the letters--but for being so nice as not to get "huffy" at my turning to you. But then I decided at that OSS Veterans dinner that you were not the "huffy getting" type!

STATINTL

At some point after I wrote you my first letter, in a phone call, said something about "Oh, by the way, I think its going to be all right about your letters I think you will be getting them shortly". And I, either chicken or because of discretion learned at the feet of a master, just said, "Oh, that will be nice!"--and didn't mention that I had written you. I told myself afterwards it was so as not to "bother" --but then.....Anyhow I said nothing.

STATINTL

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has written me that he has advanced the deadline for his book--because of the letters I gave him--both from his "subject" to me and from me to his "subject"--so we still have time. I am just hoping that Allen did save that one letter that I most want--for in those days I was so "innocent" that I didn't keep copies!

Wishing you and your family a very Happy New Year and all manner of good things in 1971 and again thanking you for your kindness,

STATINTL

Sincerely,

16 December 1970

STATINTL

When I last wrote you on 30 November, I anticipated that an individual who has been working on Allen Dulles' personal letters would be able to give me an answer to your inquiry. Unfortunately, he fell ill and I have not seen him since. I fully expect that he will have recovered by some time around the first of the year, at which time I will pursue with him the contents of your letter.

I regret this delay, but, as you see above, it is not of my making.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

(Signed) Richard Helms

Richard Helms

30 November 1970

STATINTL



This will acknowledge your letter of 24 November which I received today. Since I have been out of town, I have some catching up to do. Therefore, it will be a few days before I am able to establish exactly what happened to the letters mentioned by you.

I am glad you raised this matter with me. We will see what can be done to bring it to a satisfactory conclusion.



Sincerely,


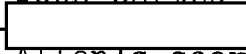


Richard Helms


 STATINTL

November 24, 1970

Dear Mr. Helms,

Dating from the days of World War II, when I worked, as you may know, for Allen Dulles, he would often say that he was keeping my letters to him-- letters full of gossip that frequently accompanied my more official "reports"--and that "someday" I should publish them. I always took this as a kind of flattery--you know, the kind of "carrot-on-a-stick" that a boss sometimes hold in front of a donkey, hoping to lure the donkey to pull a bigger load! Then several years before his death, at about the time of his retirement, his urging became more serious--about publishing them, I mean--and he used also to say that I should do some pieces about wartime life from a human interest angle--more human interest than touching on your "business"--the kind of thing I used to do before the war for the  In fact, shortly before his death he became so insistent that I come down and look over these letters which he had taken to his home when he retired, that I actually was planning to go down in the spring--for in the meantime my agent--for whom I have been doing a novel, my third-- had also begun talk of an autobiography--and since naturally in any such thing, wartime  would take up several chapters, there did seem some point. Particularly since I am now sixty-seven--and at that age one can begin, it seems to me, to face up to anything as, well, sort of pompous, as an autobiography.

After Allen's death, when I was staying with  I tried to get hold of the letters that Allen had spoken off. And I discovered that they had been carted off to your organization. I talked with  --if that is the name of the lady who was Allen's secretary--with  --and I also talked with someone else whose name escapes me but who told me that  might know their exact whereabouts. I wrote him and had a letter from him in which he said:

"I understand that all the papers which were taken from Allen's house have been put in a strong room at CIA for safekeeping, under an arrangement between the CIA and the executor. My only involvement was to go over certain papers remaining in the Q Street House after the first batch of papers, which were clearly

(over)



or CIA connected, had been removed. I personally have no knowledge of the papers which were in the file cabinets which were sent to the [redacted]  
STATINTL [redacted] is undoubtedly correct as he took part in the initial sorting of what should go where." STATINTL

"The arrangements for CIA were handled by their General Counsel, Lawrence Houston. I have talked to him about your letter and, at his request, have forwarded it to him. You will undoubtedly hear from him."

STATINTL

[redacted]  
I know what from that angle at least some part of his estate has been settled, I decided I would never see those letters again. When I was in Washington after Allen's death, I thought of getting in touch with you-  
STATINTL

[redacted]  
that when you wanted something, go straight to the top. STATINTL But although [redacted] was anxious to have me get the letters, she seemed sort of horrified at the idea of my contacting you. I think she said you had just moved! Into a new house--or something. Or maybe that is just fantasy.

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STATINTL

come true,

--2--

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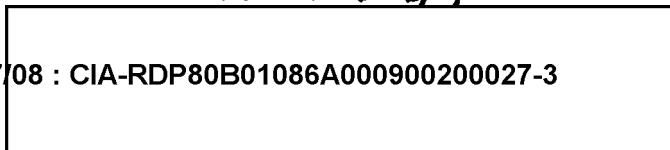


I nearly spoke to you at the OSS veterans dinner at which I was the guest of [redacted] but since I only wanted the letters for myself at that point--well, I lost my nerve. (Incidentally, I got a big bang out of the expression on the faces of the hippie photographers when you were introduced! I don't think you looked the field they expected!!!!!!) But now that [redacted] has appeared on the scene--and there seems some point besides my own autobiography--for which my own memory plus carbons, etc. would undoubtedly serve--I have suddenly become bold. Please do forgive me.

Naturally, I will understand if you can't help me. Maybe what I am after has already been burned! I am reminded of a remark one of my bosses made to me before leaving for Nuremberg: "Don't you know any nice reliable people I could take with me into Germany to steal papers for me?" Unfortunately, I didn't. Nor do I know any nice, reliable people presently in your organization to do the same for me! So I have to throw myself on your mercy. [redacted] was here recently and asked me if I'd heard anything. I said I hadn't--and let it go--for as you know, she has been ill and I don't think should be burdened with such matters--although naturally I know she will ok my getting the stuff if you ask her, as you may want to.

Again, please forgive me for  
"battering" you. Sincerely,

STATINTL



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